

**REMARKS**

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Rickman for the courtesies she extended during the telephone conversation of August 24, 2004. Unfortunately, the applicant was unable to respond within the time frames mentioned during the telephone call.

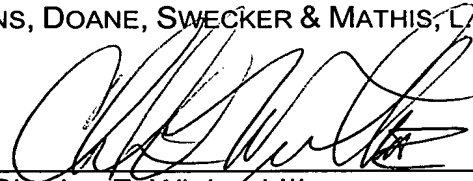
By the above change, independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended in the manner the Examiner expressly suggested to place these claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry thereof is respectfully requested. Additionally, claims 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21 are all placed in independent form pursuant to the Examiner's indication that these claims contain allowable subject matter.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 2, 2004

By:   
Charles F. Wieland III  
Registration No. 33,096

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620